

President's message



NENA is continually working to assist our members and all emergency nurses across Canada. No issue is isolated to any one area or province.

To this end, your NENA board of directors had requested and successfully orchestrated a May 2006 meeting with Canada's federal health minister, the Honourable Tony Clement. Concerns expressed by NENA members from across Canada were shared with Mr. Clement.

The round table discussion included emergency overcrowding, the ongoing nursing shortage, wait times and patient safety, and nursing recruitment and retention. NENA suggested that Canada's federal government directly target increased finances toward the support of ongoing education and skill upgrading for all of Canada's emergency nurses. NENA also proposed that support services (MRI, CT scan, laboratory services, and homecare) provide expanded hours to at least six days per week in order to facilitate patient flow in Canada's health care system.

Mr. Clement shared NENA's concerns, voicing appreciation for our responsible and constructive suggestions for emergency health care in Canada. During his address to the NENA 2006 conference attendees, Canada's federal health minister publicly committed to an ongoing collaborative relationship with NENA.

May was a very busy month for NENA and its members. Your board of directors held a very productive three-day BOD meeting. Further affiliation business was also conducted during the NENA 2006 annual general meeting. Winners of several bursaries and one Award of Excellence, as well as the first NENA research grant were announced.

The NENA 2006 conference "Stayin' Alive" was a great success. Attendees from across Canada participated in a highly educational NENA event, incorpo-

rating assorted speakers covering a broad scope of pertinent topics, eating very well at meals and breaks, touring wonderful exhibits, and enjoying many entertaining and fun social events, along with taking advantage of unlimited networking opportunities while earning valuable certified education contact hours.


NENA supports the CTAS program created by the National Working Group (NWG) and remains committed to facilitating the rollout of this standardized triage program across all Canadian provinces and territories. The NENA members of the NWG continue to work tirelessly to make this a reality very soon.

As your NENA president, I had the honour of being invited to present "Canadian Trauma Care" at the first International ER Nursing Congress held in May 2006 in Ixtapa, Mexico. Carla Policicchio, NENA past-president, presented on CTAS and triage as well. During the same conference, I also participated in a panel symposium discussing issues faced by emergency nurses from around the world. The other participants were the emergency nursing presidents from Mexico, the Philippines, USA and Spain. Overcrowding, nursing shortages, recruitment and retention, and funding for ongoing education were global concerns.

The emergency nursing presidents from Spain and Mexico have created an alliance between their two countries with the goal of working together to better deal with issues faced by emergency nurses in the world's Spanish-speaking countries. As NENA president, I was honoured to be asked to serve as the international wit-

ness to the ceremony and document-signing, establishing this historic emergency nursing alliance. NENA is indeed highly regarded and recognized internationally.

The NENA membership should be aware of how proactive and committed your BOD is to becoming involved in health care issues affecting Canada's emergency nurses today and in the future. We have initiated a connection with the Centre for Excellence in Emergency Preparedness (CEEP) and Health Canada's Emergency Preparedness Division. These agencies are excited to have NENA's participation in emergency preparedness planning for Canada. Since emergency nurses are the gatekeepers to the Canadian health care system, it is essential that NENA be involved early and continuously.

We are now into the 2006-2007 membership year. I believe that many exciting challenges are in store for each of us in the upcoming months. Together, we will meet and overcome them for the benefit of the countless patients for whom we care. I urge every NENA member to encourage your friends and colleagues to also become NENA members so that they, too, may contribute to and benefit from all that NENA has to offer. I encourage every NENA member to become more active in "your" professional affiliation. The more members and the more involvement by those members, the louder NENA's collective voice for all of Canada's emergency nurses. Let us share together, in a personally and professionally rewarding NENA experience! 

**Janice L. Spivey, RN, ENC(C), CEN
NENA President**

Calling all instructors

If your students have put the work into a presentation, a case study, a disease process, research, etc., why not encourage them to write it up into a brief article to be published in Outlook? Our section editors will work closely with them to help in the process, and they can see their hard work in print, help to educate emergency nurses across the country and add a publication to their resume – a win/win situation!

Articles can be submitted to the Communication Officer, Colleen Brayman, 337 Providence Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1W 5A5
(H) 250 764-9603; e-mail: colleenbrayman@hotmail.com

Introducing the President-Elect – Tanya Penney



I graduated from nursing in 1991 from St. Martha's Regional Hospital, initially practising in mental health. I began emergency nursing in 1997 in a small rural hospital, moving to the Dartmouth General ED shortly thereafter. In October 2005, I graduated from Dalhousie University with my BScN and I remain enrolled in courses in an eventual goal to attain my Masters.

At present, I am the Health Services Manager of the emergency department in Hants Community Hospital (Windsor, NS) as well as faculty within the Maritime School of Paramedicine (Dartmouth, NS).

Teaching paramedic students presents a wonderful opportunity to establish working relationships with paramedics across the province; it allows me to appreciate their roles and knowledge while sharing nursing perspectives with them.

I have been on the NENA board of directors for one-and-a-half years now, representing Nova Scotia as Provincial Director. This has been an awesome experience! The folks who represent this country's emergency nurses are professional, knowledgeable, outgoing, dedicated and, above all, committed to the standards of practice of emergency nursing. I feel honoured to be participating as president-elect. The work of this organization is very important in establishing standards in research, education and practice.

The mission and values of NENA speak to nurses nationally. Within our health care system today, emergency nurses are facing new challenges daily from British Columbia to Newfoundland. We need to applaud ourselves for our practice, professionalism and dignity in the face of adversity.

On a personal note, I live in rural Nova Scotia with my two sons (Zackary and Breton) who keep me busy as a softball/hockey/lacrosse mom!

I am very excited and look forward to this opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions. ✉

Yours in emergency nursing,

Tanya Penney, RN, BScN, ENC(C)

From the editor



As you are reading this, it means that I was able to shake off the "deer in the headlights" syndrome enough to submit something for publication (and I apologize now for any deficiencies, as compared to previous publications and beg your forgiveness). I have recently taken over the position of Communication Officer from Val Eden – big shoes for me to fill – and am on a huge, but exciting, learning curve.

Let me introduce myself. I graduated from an Edmonton RN program in 1985, and obtained my BScN in 2001 from the University of Alberta. I worked in NICU for my first four years after graduation (in Edmonton, Ottawa and Vancouver), then transferred to PICU at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) where I worked for the following 12 years – the last five of which were on the Pediatric Transport Team. Lastly, for the past five years I have been a Clinical Nurse Educator in Emergency at the UAH and this is where my journey with NENA began. I am married and have four children, which keeps my life very

busy and has taught me that sleep is not all it is cracked up to be! We just recently moved to Kelowna, and once I am registered there (darn, this FORCED me to take the summer off...), I hope to continue working in emergency.

I am excited about this opportunity to work closely with the NENA executive, board of directors and membership, and would appreciate any input, suggestions, and future submissions sent my way. I look forward to working with you to continue to make this a class one publication. ✉

**Colleen Brayman, RN, BScN
Communication Officer**

outlook

Conference watch

The 5th World Conference on Breast Cancer

June 4-8, 2008, at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, MB. For more information contact: World Conference on Breast Cancer Foundation. Duane Eagles, Marlene Finn, Rachel Gillooly
Tel. (905) 384-1848, E-mail mail@wcbcf.ca, website: www.wcbcf.ca

President's address

NENA AGM – May 4, 2006, Ottawa, Ontario

NENA is your professional affiliation. Your BOD works hard year-round, representing the NENA membership. I encourage you to contact any of the BOD members about issues in your areas or ideas you may have to further the work of NENA.

NENA continues to make TNCC and ENPC available across Canada. The BOD has been working with course directors to facilitate better availability of the CATN II course as well.



NENA continues to represent you as an active member of the CTAS National Working Group, striving towards the rollout of the standardized CTAS program across Canada.

In the past six months, NENA has established contact with the Canadian Nursing Student Association and the Paramedic Association of Canada in the hopes of future collaboration between our groups.

Shortly, a NENA representative will be meeting with the newly formed Canadian working group for the Centre for Excellence in Emergency Preparedness. Since emergency nurses work on the front lines of health care, NENA feels it is appropriate to participate in the planning and preparation for future threats to public health in Canada.

NENA has many wonderful documents available for use in your daily practice. Consider writing an article for **Outlook**, this is your professional journal. The NENA website is always changing. Watch for more member polls and other exciting additions.

On behalf of the NENA BOD, I would like to thank the Emergency Nurses Association of Ontario for hosting the NENA 2006 Conference. Liz Rodovich and her committee have done a commendable job!

I wish you all three totally fulfilling days of "Stayin' Alive". Thank you for your attendance, and I hereby adjourn the NENA 2006 Annual General Meeting. 🇨🇦

Janice L. Spivey, RN, ENC(C), CEN
NENA President



Bursary and award winners

Special congratulations

- to Edwina Campbell (Prince Edward Island), pictured at right, recipient of the NENA Award of Excellence in Nursing Practice.
- to the following NENA bursary winners: Kathy Kennedy (British Columbia), Stephanie Carlson (Saskatchewan), Lisa Powell (Manitoba), Tanya Norris (Prince Edward Island), Cate Knowlton (Nova Scotia), Tanya Penney (Nova Scotia), Stacey Sowerby (New Brunswick), Irene Osinchuk (board of directors), and Rose Jacobson, who was awarded the Margaret Smith Pediatric Bursary.
- to BOD members Janet Calnan and Janice Spivey who recertified their ENC(C).
- to BOD member Tracey Norris and the other 217 Canadian nurses who achieved their ENC(C).



Letter to rural physicians

February 13, 2006

Dr. Trina Larsen Soles,
President – Society of Rural Physicians of Canada,
PO Box 1170,
Golden, BC V0A 1H0

Dear Dr. Larsen Soles,

Many Emergency Nurses practise in rural settings in every province across Canada. The National Emergency Nurses' Affiliation (NENA) representing these professionals is one of the five organizations that comprise the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) National Working Group (NWG).

The NENA TRIAGE position statement indicates: "Triage is a dynamic process. Patients' conditions can change, therefore continual reassessment of the patient is imperative."

Since the implementation of the CTAS 5 deferral position taken by the SRPC, several issues have become apparent that need to be addressed. Significant medico-legal issues have been identified that directly impact the emergency nurses involved with this deferral process. The NENA board of directors is committed to providing support and assistance to Canada's rural nurses as they face their unique challenges. NENA certainly recognizes the challenges within the rural facilities, however, as a result of the medico-legal issues identified, we believe it is important to collaborate with the Society of Rural Physicians to eliminate these issues.

NENA believes:

- All emergency nurses should receive standardized training in both adult and peds CTAS through Canada's NWG CTAS program.
- A hospital must have a written policy in place accepting full responsibility for any expected deferral actions by the emergency nurse relating to Level 5 patients.
- A written policy regarding Level 5 patients must clearly outline the liability if triaged away from the emergency department.
- Any hospital supporting the deferral of Level 5 patients must provide a hospital record for the purpose of permanent documentation of this occurrence.
- A physician must be notified and thus involved in any decision to triage a Level 5 patient away from the emergency department.

NENA looks forward to the further discussion and debate of this important emergency health care issue by our two organizations.

Yours sincerely,

Janice L. Spivey, RN, ENC(C), CEN
NENA President
112 Old River Road, RR2,
Mallorytown, ON K0E 1R0
E-mail: president@nena.ca

Group

National Emergency Nurses Affiliation (NENA)

Historical perspective

The National Emergency Nurses Affiliation was formed in 1981. As NENA has grown and developed, nine provinces have become part of the affiliation. We also have several independent members in Quebec, the territories and internationally.

General structure

There are nine active provincial interest groups, each led by a provincial director, as well as the independent members in NENA. The NENA board of directors (BOD) comprises an executive (president, past-president or president-elect, secretary, treasurer and communications officer) as well as the nine provincial directors. The NENA BOD meets for three days twice each year.

NENA has several operating committees: Professional Practice & Documents Committee, Nursing Research Committee, Political Action Committee, Nominations Committee, Bursaries & Awards Committee and the National Course Administration Committee (NCAC).

NENA holds an annual emergency nursing conference that rotates across Canada. Each province hosts this national education initiative in turn. The NENA annual general meeting is held in conjunction with the annual conference.

Mission

To represent the Canadian emergency nursing specialty.

Values

- All individuals have the right to quality health care.
- Essential components of emergency nursing practice are wellness, health promotion and injury prevention.
- Continuing education and professional development are fundamental to emergency nursing practice.
- Research guides emergency nursing practice.

Goals

- Strengthen the communication network.

- Provide direction for clinical practice of emergency nurses.
- Promote research-based practice.
- Support and disseminate education.

Prince Edward Island	14
Newfoundland & Labrador	72
Independent	7

Membership

As of March 2006, NENA had 912 members, distributed as follows:

British Columbia	222
Alberta	178
Saskatchewan	48
Manitoba	75
Ontario	167
New Brunswick	40
Nova Scotia	89

Special projects and activities

The NENA website is becoming more interactive, resulting in more frequent site utilization by the members. The website contains a public section as well as members-only sections, accessible only by an individual password. Information that is both current and pertinent to emergency nurses is frequently updated on the NENA website www.nena.ca.

NENA Inc., 2004-2005 year-end report

INCOME	Actual	Budget	Variance
Fundraising	\$2,126.00	\$4,200.00	\$2,074.00
BOD Mtg Recoup	\$2,087.64	\$4,000.00	\$1,912.36
CTAS – Indirect Fees CAEP	\$785.00	\$0.00	(\$785.00)
Grants		\$0.00	
Indirect Fees: ENPC	\$21,150.00	\$22,410.00	\$1,260.00
Indirect Fees: TNCC	\$49,165.00	\$49,080.00	(\$85.00)
Indirect Fees: CATN	\$0.00	\$720.00	\$720.00
Interest Income	\$331.53	\$200.00	(\$131.53)
Member Fees	\$37,355.00	\$31,980.00	(\$5,375.00)
Advertising	\$5,202.19	\$3,000.00	(\$2,202.19)
Misc. Income	\$4,151.98	\$0.00	(\$4,151.98)
TOTAL INCOME:	\$122,354.34	\$115,590.00	(\$6,764.34)
EXPENSES	Actual	Budget	Variance
Awards	\$201.42	\$200.00	-\$1.42
Advertising		\$100.00	\$100.00
Bank Charges	\$319.28	\$300.00	-\$19.28
Board Meetings	\$37,146.17	\$21,400.00	-\$15,746.17
Bursaries	\$2,150.00	\$6,600.00	\$4,450.00
Professional Fees	\$214.00	\$250.00	\$36.00
Committee Mtgs.	\$20,349.44	\$32,000.00	\$11,650.56
Gifts	\$388.00	\$200.00	-\$188.00
CTAS Reimbursement	\$235.00	\$0.00	-\$235.00
Legal	\$809.72	\$300.00	-\$509.72
Office Expense	\$4,241.19	\$10,800.00	\$6,558.81
Programs	\$6,055.63	\$5,000.00	-\$1,055.63
Promotions	\$1,382.02	\$4,080.00	\$2,697.98
Public Relations	\$13,522.63	\$20,480.00	\$6,957.37
Reimbursements: ENPC	\$7,360.00	\$7,270.00	-\$90.00
Reimbursements: TNCC	\$17,330.00	\$15,880.00	-\$1,450.00
Reimbursements: CATN	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$0.00
Misc.	\$361.53	\$0.00	-\$361.53
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$112,306.03	\$125,100.00	\$12,793.97
INCOME/LOSS POSITION:		\$10,048.31	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT:		\$22,133.32	

NENA has conducted two membership polls through our website in the past year. The first poll related to potential legislation requiring mandatory reporting to police about the presence of a person with a gunshot wound in an emergency department. The majority of NENA respondents agreed with the Ontario government in their new law, that the responsibility for general public safety outweighed individual patient confidentiality. NENA also conducted a poll regarding potential emergency nursing research in Canada. These results are yet to be compiled.

The NENA journal, **Outlook**, continues to be published twice per year. All members are encouraged to make submissions and write articles to be published in **Outlook**.

NENA is working to establish a liaison with the Paramedics Association of Canada. Since emergency nurses work so closely with paramedics, there is the potential for collaborative opportunities between our two groups.

NENA has initiated a connection with the Canadian Student Nurses Association (CSNA), offering human as well as informational resources to this group, many of whom will become Canada's emergency nurses of tomorrow.

Emergency preparedness is an important issue for emergency nurses. NENA has established a connection with the Centre for Excellence in Emergency Preparedness and the Public Health Agency of Canada, expressing interest in participation in ongoing initiatives and program development.


As a member of Canada's National Working Group for the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS), NENA is working to facilitate the rollout of the revised CTAS program that combines both the adult and pediatric components. The purpose of the new CTAS program is to establish a standardized triage process in every Canadian emergency department. Many Canadian paramedic groups have also adopted the CTAS program into their assessment protocols, clarifying communication with receiving hospitals. NENA Past-President Carla Policicchio presented CTAS at an international interdisciplinary conference in Montreal in June of this past year.

Events

The NENA 2006 conference "STAYIN' ALIVE" took place in Ottawa May 4-6, with attendees from across Canada. The three-day NENA BOD meeting was held prior to the conference. The NENA BOD requested a meeting during the week with Canada's newly elected health minister, Mr. Tony Clement.

The NENA President, Janice Spivey, was invited to present "Canadian Trauma Care" at the first International Emergency Nursing Congress in Ixtapa, Mexico, in May of this year. During this conference, the NENA president also participated in a panel symposium on emergency nursing issues with the emergency nursing presidents from Mexico, Spain and the U.S. A networking meeting was held as well for all visiting international emergency nursing presidents. NENA's Past-President, Carla Policicchio, also attended this conference. She presented CTAS to the international emergency nurses.

Issues of concern

Overcrowding, wait times, personal safety and nursing recruitment and retention remain issues of concern for all of Canada's emergency nurses. NENA continues to participate actively to address these and any concerns as they come to the forefront. 

Janice L. Spivey, RN, ENC(C), CEN
NENA President
March 20, 2006

NENA Inc., 2005-2006 unaudited year-to-date budget report

INCOME	Actual	Proposed
Advertising	\$3,780.00	\$4,000.00
BOD Mtg Recoup	\$5,304.31	\$3,000.00
CTAS – Indirect Fees	\$5,135.00	\$2,000.00
Grants	\$1,886.14	
Fundraising	\$2,070.94	\$8,200.00
Indirect Fees: ENPC	\$17,930.00	\$25,650.00
Indirect Fees: TNCC	\$54,790.00	\$52,650.00
Indirect Fees: CATN	\$600.00	\$3,240.00
Interest Income	\$96.05	
Member Fees	\$23,654.25	\$28,520.00
Misc. Income	\$2,507.84	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$117,754.53	\$127,260.00
EXPENSES	Actual	Proposed
Bank Charges	\$459.82	\$300.00
Board Meetings	\$14,688.16	\$27,595.00
Bursaries		\$6,300.00
Professional Fees	\$214.00	\$500.00
Committee Mtgs.	\$20,824.96	\$26,500.00
CTAS Reimburse CAEP	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gifts	\$40.00	\$400.00
Interest Paid		
Legal	\$30.00	\$1,800.00
Liason Meetings	\$3,497.85	\$2,000.00
Misc.	\$2,140.00	\$0.00
Office Expense	\$9,790.52	\$10,900.00
Programs	\$0.00	\$8,500.00
Promotions	\$80.00	\$5,085.00
Public Relations	\$21,573.75	\$22,000.00
Reimbursements: ENPC	\$6,120.00	\$8,550.00
Reimbursements: TNCC	\$16,290.00	\$17,550.00
Reimbursements: CATN	\$0.00	\$1,280.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$95,749.06	\$139,260.00
INCOME/LOSS POSITION:		\$22,005.47

Memories from the first International ER Nursing Congress – Ixtapa, Mexico, May 2006

NENA President Janice Spivey and NENA Past-President, Carla Policicchio were both invited to do presentations at this wonderful emergency nursing international educational event held in Ixtapa, Mexico. After two flights each, we managed to find each other in the monstrous Mexico City airport for our final flight into Ixtapa!

We hit the ground running on arrival at our hotel. A late-night dinner meeting was waiting for us with the emergency nursing presidents from Mexico, Spain, the U.S. and the Philippines. There was no time for jet lag as the first session of the three full days of conference began at 0700 hours the next morning.

International university translation students had been hired by the conference committee to serve as Spanish/English interpreters. Carla and I each had our own interpreters throughout our entire stay in Mexico, so language was no problem.


The conference included speakers from around the globe. The varied presentations covered traumatic hand wounds, TNCC in Latin America, domestic violence, clinical records in the ED, organ donation, forensic nursing, universal precautions, snake bites and spider stings, severe hand injuries, adolescent ODs, Avian Flu, violence in the ER, resuscitation management, nosocomial infections, pediatric asthmatic crises, pre-hospital care for children, legal aspects of emergency care, child and elder abuse, and transportation of the multiple trauma victim. Carla did presentations on CTAS and triage, while I presented Canadian Trauma Care and Issues of Concern for Canadian ER Nurses.

Emergency nurses attended from throughout Mexico, the U.S., Peru, most countries of South and Central America, Portugal, Spain, the Philippines and

Canada. During the conference days and evenings, we met with attendees from around the world and found that emergency nursing issues are totally global. The international emergency nurses were so eager for information about their Canadian counterparts and shared much about their lives and concerns with us.

While much education was packed into the long conference days, there was some downtime. A wonderful Mexican feast, complete with decorations and entertainment, happened one evening. Groups of ER nurses from around the world requested to have pictures taken with their new Canadian colleagues. A tour of Ixtapa and surrounding area, including the ambulance base was provided for all out-of-country attendees. A private tour of the Ixtapa Naval Hospital was also arranged for Carla, myself and the other international emergency nursing presidents.

Prior to the close of the conference, a ceremony was held to formally create the alliance between the Mexican and Spanish emergency nurses and their associations. It was an honour for me to represent NENA, having been asked to serve as international witness to this historic event for emergency nursing.

The Asociacion Mexicana de Enfermeria en Urgencias (Mexican Association of Emergency Nurses) and its President, Mr. Gerardo Jasso Ortega, have expressed sincere appreciation to Canada's National Emergency Nurses' Affiliation (NENA) for their support of this huge conference venture. With international recognition and many new emergency nursing friends worldwide, this is a proud day for NENA! 

Janice Spivey
NENA President



Left to right: Domingo Arteaga, Sociedad Espanola de Enfermeria de Urgencias y Emergencias, Spain, Janice Spivey, National Emergency Nurses Affiliation, Canada, Gerardo Ortega, Asociacion Mexicana de Enfermeria en Urgencias, Mexico, Nancy Bonalumi, Emergency Nurses Association, U.S.

outlook

NENA at work



NENA BOD with Canada's federal health minister, the Honourable Tony Clement, at the NENA 2006 national conference held in May in Ottawa. Front row (left to right): NENA executive: Jerry Bell, Valerie Eden, Tony Clement, Janice Spivey, Janet Calnan Back row: NENA board of directors: Sharron Lyons, Karen Latoszek, Irene Osinchuk, Leslie Olson, Judy Skanderup, Tanya Penney, Bonnie Briere, Tracey Norris, Ted Sellers, Cavell Bolger, Alison Duncan.

outlook

Bouquets

A special thank you:

✧ On behalf of the NENA board of directors and the entire NENA membership, I wish to extend sincere appreciation to Valerie Eden and Carla Policicchio. These two dedicated NENA members have served the affiliation tirelessly and proudly.

✧ Valerie has fulfilled several roles on the NENA executive over many years, including president and, most recently, as communications officer and OUTLOOK editor. She continues in her role on the CTAS National Working Group.

✧ Carla has fulfilled her term as NENA president and continues to actively represent NENA as a member of the CTAS National Working Group.

The NENA membership has benefited greatly from the incredible time, energy, talents and commitment to emergency nursing in Canada, by these two special ladies.

– Janice L. Spivey, NENA President

“Bouquets” is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of NENA members. If you would like to send a bouquet to a NENA member, contact the communication officer, Colleen Brayman, 337 Providence Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1W 5A5. (H) 250 764-9603; e-mail: colleenbrayman@hotmail.com

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